

USAR_J-05_Shizuko_Nakahama

04:43:43:20 Please tell us your name and date of birth.

04:43:47:14 My name is Shizuko Nakahama. My birthday is on August 17th, Showa 7th.

04:44:07:14 Around Showa 16th, what kind of games did you play, or what did you do for fun?

04:44:19:09 Showa 16th...

04:44:21:16 That's about when you were in 3rd grade.

04:44:22:16 I was in 3rd grade... I played jump ropes, hide and seek, and hopscotch. That's about it.

04:44:58:09 Do you remember playing tennis or volleyball?

04:45:02:08 I wasn't sure about tennis, but I remember playing volleyball few years later.

04:45:29:17 Did you have any interaction with soldiers before the attack on Pearl Harbor?

04:45:38:05 I don't remember seeing soldiers, but if a person receive a piece of red paper, that person had to join the troops. It was like that back then.

04:46:22:18 Did your older brother go to China as a soldier before Showa 16th(1941)?

04:46:32:01 I was in 3rd grade, so I think it was around Showa 16th. He went to the front at that time.

04:46:46:07 Do you remember anything about that?

04:46:49:06 I remember having a red snapper as a dish on the day he went to the front. In Japan, we eat red snapper on auspicious day.

04:47:32:10 Did you worry about your brother not coming back home?

04:47:38:22 My mother worried about him. She prepared "kagezen" (setting a meal for an absent person for form's sake) on Buddhist altar to pray for him to have enough food and his safe return to home.

04:48:18:12 Right before the attack on Pearl Harbor, what did Japanese people do to worship Emperor?

04:48:27:06 I don't really remember what was like right before the attack, but we worshipped Emperor like a god. We treated his in very special way.

04:49:10:19 How were you taught about Emperor at school? Did you have any lecture?

04:49:20:18 I don't remember.

04:49:40:15 How did you hear the news about the attack on Pearl Harbor? Where were you and what were you doing when you hear about the news on the attack?

04:49:49:06 I was in 3rd grade when the attack on Pearl Harbor happened. I heard the news from the principal of school during morning assembly. I only remember that.

04:50:37:08 Did you have any anxiety about going to a war against America? Was it a taboo thing to express those anxiety in front of people?

04:50:48:03 As a child, I didn't think about it too much, so I didn't really worry about it.

04:51:33:16 How did you think about going to war against America? What did you parents think about it?

04:51:44:01 My parents didn't talk about the war with me.

04:51:56:06 We didn't have TV or radio, so I couldn't get much information about the war, which could've made me worry about. Since I didn't get much information, I didn't have any impression about it and I didn't worry about it.

04:52:47:09 How did the school changed after the war started? Did the clothes change? How did you interacted with your friend? Is there other changes after the war started?

04:53:01:07 Nothing changed all of the sudden. Things gradually changed over time.

04:53:38:07 Did the school uniform changed? Was there any strict rules about it?

04:53:45:07 I didn't have any uniform in elementary school.

04:54:10:09 How did the gradual change affected your life?

04:54:19:08 I began to notice that I couldn't purchase whatever I wanted.

04:54:30:18 Such as clothes?

04:54:33:05 The supplies were limited, so I was wearing clothes that were made out of my mother's kimono.

04:54:48:02 What about food?

04:54:49:09 Since there were less food, my mother went out to a farm in a distant to make stuff to eat.

04:55:10:10 Were you able to get food at restaurant?

04:55:14:13 There were many expensive restaurants, but there were still less expensive ones. They had a place where hundreds of people could eat, so I lined up there to eat.

04:56:09:13 Was it Showa 15th? When your school had to evacuate to rural region, why did you have to evacuate?

04:56:30:17 I was in Kobe when the war was intensified. Since Kobe was populated city, it was dangerous to stay there, so people in Kobe had to evacuate to rural regions. I had to choose between going to relative's place or student evacuation, so I evacuated to Kagoshima, Kyusyu district, where my relatives were.

04:57:18:02 How did you feel about evacuating to unknown place? Did you have any fear?

04:57:27:11 I went to Kagoshima with my mother's older brother's child, my mother's younger brother's wife, and her son. 4 of us went to Kagoshima together, and 2 of us, Mitchan and I, stayed at oldest son's house. I wasn't alone and it was my relatives house, so I didn't feel lonely nor any anxiety.

04:58:32:06 Was your life easier in the rural region than the city? Was it easier to get food to eat?

04:58:43:13 We've made a lot of rice and potatoes, but we had to give them to the government, so there were not enough food to eat.

04:59:22:22 Was there anything that you had to give out to the government other than food? such as jewelry or clothes?

04:59:35:22 There was one day when my aunt had to give out an ornamental hair pin to the government.

05:00:06:13 How did you feel about the fact that you had to give out those food and ornamental hairpin?

05:00:14:04 I thought there was nothing we could do.

05:00:53:12 As the war progressed, was there any changes on how people think about Emperor? or how people taught you about Emperor?

05:01:09:22 There was no change about it.

05:01:16:22 We never said anything bad about Emperor. We never said what we thought about Emperor. It was like that all the way.

05:01:38:22 Please tell us the story about your teacher's visit when there were less food in Kobe.

05:01:52:16 Since there were less food, my teacher asked us whether

our parents goes to farm, so I raised my hand. My teacher came to my house after school that day.

05:02:31:23 Did you give your teacher anything?

05:02:35:23 My teacher talked to my mother and I think my mother gave teacher something. I only remember that.

05:02:51:13 Was it Showa 19th(1944)? When was that?

05:02:54:13 It was the year I was in 6th grade.

05:03:08:15 Please tell us the story about when the school ground in Kagoshima got attacked.

05:03:20:16 It happened when I was in Jyogakkou(girls' school). One day I heard a sound similar to machine gun.

05:03:54:07 When did you enter Jyogakkou(girls' school)?

05:04:00:07 When was that...

05:04:05:05 When you went to Kagoshima, were you in elementary school?

05:04:08:17 I evacuated to Kagoshima in August of my 6th grade. I was in elementary school from August to March. I entered Jyogakkou in April.

05:04:41:18 Is that April in Showa 20th(1945)?

05:04:45:10 20th...

05:04:47:11 20th is the last year at the war.

05:04:51:06 Is that so...

05:04:53:11 Did you enter Jyogakkou in the last year at the war?

05:04:55:10 The last year at the war is Showa 20th, but...

05:04:59:02 Did the Jyogakkou started in April of Showa 20th? Or was it before that?

05:05:04:06 That was 1st year at Jyogakkou. Was it 17th?

05:05:11:12 I think it's 19th.

05:05:16:08 So, I entered Jyogakkou in Showa 19th.

05:05:23:02 So you entered Jyogakkou in April...

05:05:33:05 I entered Jyogakkou in April... I guess the war ended in August of the same year...

05:05:40:21 So it was Showa 20th(1945).

05:05:42:06 Yes.

05:06:04:08 How was the bomb drill like? And how did the people acted differently from the drill when they got actual bomb attack?

05:06:17:22 In the drill, we followed teacher's direction and went to outside of the entrance...

05:06:29:04 Please wait while this noise gets away.

05:06:43:17 How was the people's action different from bomb drill and actual bomb attack?

05:06:52:06 In the drill, we followed teacher's direction and went out to a road of neighborhood, then we went back to class. But when we got the actual bomb attack, we escaped to a mountain 1km away.

05:07:20:09 When did your school got the bomb attack ?

05:07:28:02 I think it was in August of Showa 20th. I don't remember it well. It happened right before Japan lost the war.

05:08:00:06 How did you feel when you were doing the bomb drill and when the actual bomb attack happened? Were you frightened?

05:08:10:05 The drill was just a drill, so I wasn't frightened. But the actual attack was completely different. It was very scary and we even ran away to a mountain.

05:08:57:09 Did you worry about your parents when Kobe had a bomb attack? since you were not with them while you were evacuating in Kagoshima.

05:09:13:05 I was too young to think about other people. However, I wanted to see my parents when the bomb attack happened. I was in Kagoshima because I was afraid of Kobe. I was too concerned about myself and not my parents. It was different on how parents think about their children and children think about their parents.

05:09:59:10 How long were you separated from your parents?

05:10:03:19 About a year and a half.

05:10:28:21 When did you hear about atomic bomb being dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki? How did you feel about it? Were you angry or frightened?

05:10:43:00 I heard about the incident when I was in Kagoshima. Since we didn't have a radio, it was hard to get those information. I had a relative in Hiroshima and she told me about the atomic bomb attack when she came to Kagoshima.

05:11:11:18 How did you feel about it?

05:11:17:18 I thought there was nothing we can do since we were at

the war.

05:11:44:07 Did you know it was an atomic bomb? or did you think that it was just another big bomb?

05:12:01:10 I knew it was different from a regular bomb. I heard it sparked. A regular bomb wouldn't spark. She told me that she saw the bomb sparked and cloud came out. She was hiding behind a tree, watching with fear.

05:12:35:11 How did you feel when Japan surrendered to America?

05:12:42:09 I had some anxiety because Japan had lost.

05:13:06:23 What did you think America would do to Japan when Japan lost.

05:13:15:11 I don't remember where this rumor came from, but I heard that American people would land in Japan and would carry off all the women.

05:14:06:10 This would be the last question. From your experience, how did you feel about the war back then, and how do you think about the war right now?

05:14:24:22 Back then, I thought I was misfortune because I had to experience the war. However, I can feel happiness on so many things right now when I compare to the experience I had back then. I can appreciate on everything. Because I experienced the war, I can think that way.

05:15:54:04 Is everything ok?

05:16:04:13 to China...

05:16:06:02 Is my brother on this photo? I think it's another relatives.